



City of Phoenix

To: Paul Blue
Interim Aviation Director

Date: August 31, 2015

From: Deborah Ostreicher
Assistant Director

Subject: NOISE PLAN UPDATE

The Aviation Department has implemented every aspect of the Council-approved plan to fight the noise issues created by the FAA's implementation of new flight paths without any process for public input.

The Plan includes:

1. Communication
 - a) Active engagement of the community
 - b) Pursuit of community participation in Metroplex
 - c) Enhancement of the Noise Office
2. Legislation & Lobbying
 - a) Engage nation-wide legislators to force the FAA do the right thing
 - b) Work with other cities and industry groups to support related lobbying efforts
 - c) Lobby the airlines to make voluntary changes to give residents noise relief
3. Litigation
 - a) Continue the City's legal case
 - b) Support Phoenix neighborhoods in their legal case(s)
 - c) Support any nation-wide community interested in filing a case

Progress to date in each area is outlined below.

1. COMMUNICATION

a) Active engagement of the community

Based on Council and community feedback, staff continues to improve communication with the public.

Coffee Chats:

Community exchanges or “Coffee Chats” have been conducted in North Phoenix, Central City and Laveen to listen to the concerns of the residents and exchange ideas on how to resolve the noise caused by aircraft due to the RNAV procedures put in place by the FAA last September. Aviation staff has hosted or taken part in ten sessions and several meetings in private residences.

Initial feedback from the community has become more positive as more information has been presented on the efforts put forth by the City to find resolution for the community. A list of all of the ideas collected at these meetings so far has been compiled and is provided in the attachments.

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The primary concerns expressed by residents so far have been:

- Lack of proper notification by the FAA about their intent to change flight paths
- Inability to be comfortable inside and outside homes due to new noise
- Health issues due to noise such as lack of sleep, nervousness and anxiety
- Lack of safety due to low flying aircraft
- New helicopter noise
- Pollution from aircraft
- Fear by residents in the former flight paths that the noise will return

Noise Complaints/Comments:

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Web:

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Jordan Feld has been hired as the new Deputy and we are in the recruitment process for the three positions newly authorized by the Phoenix City Council to enhance capacity. The positions include: Planning Program Manager, Noise Technical Planner and Noise Community Engagement Planner.

2. LEGISLATION & LOBBYING

- a) Engage nation-wide legislators to force the FAA do the right thing
City lobbyists in Washington, D.C. are pursuing the airlines' legislative staff in the capitol. Legislative options to require pre-decisional community notification and dialogue with the Arizona Congressional delegation and committees of jurisdiction are also being pursued.
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- Fear by residents in the former flight paths that the noise will return

Noise Complaints/Comments:

The community has become very well versed in the use of the flight tracking system we implemented to make it easier for residents to give feedback. While the older and more cumbersome system is still available for those who are used to it, the newer system is more efficient for users.

Web:

Countless documents and information are available at skyharbor.com/flightpaths, but the amount of information has made it challenging to navigate. So staff is making improvements to the site, which should be live by October 1.

List Serve:

Interested residents may sign up to receive an email each time new information is posted to the site. This saves them from having to proactively check the site.

Weekly Update:

Each week, an update to the Six Point Plan is posted to the site and an email is sent to all who have requested list serve notifications.

Videos:

Some residents find it easier to click on a YouTube link on their cell phones rather than look at the weekly update. So per their request, 1-2 minute videos in English and Spanish are posted to Sky Harbor's YouTube channel each time there is an important update. <https://www.youtube.com/user/PhoenixSkyHarbor>.

Visuals:

To assist in dialogue with residents, improved visual aids have been developed to include past and present flight paths, land use planning history, former sound mitigation efforts and resident population and industrial areas.

- b) Pursuit of Community Participation in Metroplex
Staff inquires at least weekly with the FAA about when Phoenix area residents will have the opportunity to participate in a public process regarding Metroplex. This is the nation-wide flight path management system that will be based on the new changes such as those in Phoenix. It is critical that public input is sought *before* decisions are made by the FAA and that Metroplex is *not* based on the current flight paths. The FAA continues to advise that no information is available yet. Aviation staff will continue to inquire and will continue to attend public outreach sessions in other cities to become better prepared for a process in Phoenix.
- c) Enhancement of the Noise Office
Jordan Feld has been hired as the new Deputy and we are in the recruitment process for the three positions newly authorized by the Phoenix City Council to enhance capacity. The positions include: Planning Program Manager, Noise Technical Planner and Noise Community Engagement Planner.

2. LEGISLATION & LOBBYING

- a) Engage nation-wide legislators to force the FAA do the right thing
City lobbyists in Washington, D.C. are pursuing the airlines' legislative staff in the capitol. Legislative options to require pre-decisional community notification and dialogue with the Arizona Congressional delegation and committees of jurisdiction are also being pursued.
- b) Work with other cities and industry groups to support related lobbying efforts
The Aviation Department has identified a number of communities around the nation that have experienced changed noise patterns, as a result of RNAV or Metroplex programs or may be about to. The Department is currently working with representatives of those communities and airports to generate a common message to use with their Congressional representatives.

Staff is also in constant contact with leading industry groups (such as National League of Cities, American Association of Airport Executives and Airports Council International) as well as with community and noise activist groups across the country. United efforts are underway to continue fighting unfair practices by the FAA. This includes keeping the issue in front of legislators and news organizations at the national level. The public can now get information about other cities at <https://skyharbor.com/flightpaths/AdditionalResources.html>

- c) Lobby the airlines to make voluntary changes to give residents noise relief
Staff proposed numerous options to the airlines to give significant noise relief to residents to no avail. Another invitation has been sent to the airlines to ask for their participation in a discussion about this issue. City lobbyists in Washington, D.C. are also pursuing discussions with the airlines' legislative staff in the capitol.

LITIGATION

- a) Continue the City's legal case
After countless requests to the FAA by the City of Phoenix to address noise impacts and after numerous alternatives for flight paths were proposed to the FAA, the City filed suit (Petition for Review) on June 1, 2015. This petition for review is a formal request to a U.S. Court of Appeals to review the legality of an agency's administrative decision. The City's primary allegation is that the FAA should have involved residents in a public process before making changes to the flight paths. Many documents have been filed on both sides pursuant to court deadlines and the City is now awaiting a court decision with no deadline.
- b) Support Phoenix neighborhoods in their legal case(s)
On July 31, 2015, several historic Phoenix neighborhoods announced the filing of a Petition for Review against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The legal action was filed on behalf of residents adversely affected by the new flight paths. Petitioners include the Story Preservation Association, Willo Neighborhood Association, Encanto-Palmcroft Historic Preservation Association, and Roosevelt Action Association, together with residents of Woodland Historic District. The City will continue to support the Historic neighborhoods and any other local residents in additional lawsuits against the FAA on this issue.
- c) Support any nation-wide community interested in filing a case
Staff has and continues to share information with other communities facing the same issues with the FAA in their area and is providing information and support on their efforts towards filing similar lawsuits.

Staff will continue to work on all of the areas outlined above and welcomes community input on these efforts.